

COLLEGE PARK CITY-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM



SIX SUCCESSFUL YEARS AND OVER 70 HOMEBUYERS

FY 20&21 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2019- JUNE 2021

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THANKS TO:



FY 20 & 21

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The College Park City-University Partnership is working to implement the University Community Vision 2030, which calls for a growing, thriving, equitable, and sustainable community, united by a robust alliance between the City, University, and community.

The College Park City-University Partnership's Homeownership Program, launched in summer 2015, is part of a multi-faceted approach to stabilize neighborhoods, reduce commutes, and improve the economy. It provides \$15,000 in ten-year, forgivable loans for down payment or closing costs to full-time, benefits-eligible employees of the University of Maryland and full-time employees of the City of College Park who are purchasing a home in the City of College Park as their permanent residence. Homebuyers that are purchasing a home that has been previously rented, foreclosed or in short sale status, and College Park employees, police, firefighters and EMTs employed in the State of Maryland who are looking to buy a home in College Park are both eligible to use the City's \$5,000 New Neighbor Grant program. When a homebuyer qualifies for both programs, they can receive funding from both under the umbrella of the Partnership's Homeownership Program. The outcome of this streamlining is 12 former rental properties that converted to principal residences for a term of 10 years.

In its fifth and sixth years, the Program grew to over 70 homes being purchased in the City of College Park. Nineteen families moved in to the City during this time, with six homes being purchased in FY'20 and thirteen homes being purchased in FY'21. There was a slowed period, from about April 2020 to July 2020, of homes being purchased through this Program due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Program has picked up since July to a similar pace in previous years.

The Program continues in a strong fashion, having a big impact. As of the end of Fiscal Year 21, 72 homes in total were sold. There are 164 full-time residents now living in College Park. We are beginning to see the results: The percentage of UMD employees living in College Park has jumped from roughly 4 percent to 6 percent. Homebuyers are out in the community, participating in City, University and Partnership events – one recently participated in the City's Pollinator week social media photo contest, and many are enjoying local businesses and amenities in the area.

This program is made possible by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Community Legacy grant award, and matching grants from the City of College Park and the University of Maryland.

CHOOSING COLLEGE PARK

The Homeownership Program is advancing our community goal to be a top city and university community. College Park has 17 distinct and unique neighborhoods. The City of College Park is vibrant and fun, and our work together with the City, University, County, State and community, in many areas, is making College Park an even more attractive place to work, visit, come back to, play, learn and live.

College Park has many events, such as College Park Day and Maryland Day. College Park Arts Exchange has many arts events such as the PorchFest on July 4th. The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center is a preeminent place for music, art, and dance events as well as events such as the NextNOW festival. The DC Blues Society typically holds an annual Fall blues festival here too. DuVall field has many youth events throughout the year. The City Committee for a Better Environment holds many sustainability events, and the Partnership hosts an annual Trolley Trail Day to celebrate trail connections through three communities along Baltimore Avenue. All of this, in addition to University-level athletics.



There are amazing trails here that can connect you to the broader DC metro area, or just take you to a playground (there are over 20 playgrounds in College Park). Trails such as the Trolley Trail that runs through College Park down to Hyattsville, College Park Woods Trail, and Paint Branch Trail (where Parkrun holds weekly, timed runs) to name a few.

There are exciting local amenities in College Park that include MOM's Organic Market, Lake Artemesia, Lidl, Smile Herb Shop, Stripe 3 Adidas, OpenBarre Studios, Numi Yoga, Posh Cycling and Fitness, Proteus Bikes, CD Depot, College Park Bicycles, Target Express, the Hotel at UMD and its Spa, the College Park Tennis Center (JTCC), the College Park Aviation Museum, and more.

College Park is also a foodie city with many good, unique restaurants like the Board and Brew, Vigilante, Hanami Japanese Restaurant, Taqueria Habanero, The Hall CP, Azteca Cantina, Ten Ren's Tea Time, Pho Thom, Jerk Pit, Milk & Honey Café, Marathon Deli, Bagel Place and Bagels N Grinds – and more!

CHOOSING COLLEGE PARK

The City is a cultural hub with Lakeland Heritage Community Project – whose mission is to collect, preserve, and interpret the heritage and history of those African Americans who created, lived in, and/or had association with the Lakeland community of Prince George’s County, Maryland from the late 19th century to the present – the College Park Here and Now newspaper, College Park Arts Exchange, the new City Hall (and first ever City-University collaborative project), and the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.



It boasts a number of childcare and preschool options for families – including the University’s Center for Young Children and the UMD Child Development Center by Bright Horizons, Monarch Preschool, University Church Nursery School, College Park Nursery School and more. There two public schools that sit in College Park – Hollywood Elementary School and Paint Branch Elementary School, that has a Chinese immersion program. Both schools are certified green schools and serve kids from preschool to fifth grade. There are also private schools here including Holy Redeemer,

a Catholic school for kids in kindergarten to eighth grade.

College Park has become a research and science hub, too! For example, the Discovery District, a place that sits at the intersection of Baltimore Avenue and Campus Drive in College Park, is thriving with roughly 6,600 professional jobs and over 57 companies/entities.

And now, within the University Community Vision 2030, we are working to make it even better. For example, we are working to develop a Riverwalk around the Paint Branch stream for pedestrians to walk and enjoy College Park’s natural areas, and we’re working to preserve neighborhoods for full-time homeowners with a potential neighborhood preservation trust.

And we know that the Homeownership Program is working; our homebuyers, in exit interviews for the program, have told us that the reasons for using the program and moving to College Park include being close to work, frequenting local businesses, spending more time with family and friends, access to natural amenities – like Lake Artemesia and bike trails – and participating in the community. College Park is an energetic, and exciting, city and a smart place to live. We are promoting our community’s many assets, and combined with the Homeownership Program, we are successfully bringing more people who work in College Park to recognize our many attributes and live here.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

OPEN BARRE STUDIOS

OpenBarre Studios. OpenBarre Studios offers home buyers one month of unlimited classes per adult on the title. The month should be started within 90 days of the sale date. Try a variety of classes including but not limited to \$5 Happy Hour Barre, Arms & Abs, Barre Stretch, Date Night Barre, Mom Strength, Barre Cardio Circuit, and many more! This membership is valued at \$99.

COLLEGE PARK TENNIS CLUB

The College Park Tennis Club offers anyone who uses the City-University Partnership's Homeownership Program a six-month free tennis club membership. This includes a beginner training program (Rally in 10) for folks who have never played tennis and want to try it. This package is valued at \$00.



BLUE NOTE TITLE, INC.

Blue Note Title, Inc. offers participants in the Homeownership Program a \$500.00 discount on settlement and title services (with the purchase of Owner's Title Insurance). Military, teacher, and other discounts may also apply. Spanish-speaking settlements are available. Please contact Jessica Chipoco, Esq. at 240-670-8993 or jessica@bluenotetitle.com for more information.

CAPITOL TITLE

Capitol Title is offering participants in the Homeownership Program a \$500.00 closing cost credit off Settlement Fees if they settle with Capitol Title and purchase an Owner's Title Insurance Policy. For more details on the services and products that Capitol Title provides please contact Sara Demb Goldstein at SDemb@capitoltitle.com.

THE CITY OF COLLEGE PARK NEW NEIGHBOR HOME OWNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

Offers a \$5,000 incentive for purchase of houses that have been previously rented, foreclosed or short sale status. The \$5,000 incentive is also provided for purchase of ANY house in College Park by City of College Park employees, Police, firefighters and EMT's who are employed in the State of Maryland or Prince George's County. If a home buyer is eligible for the City's program, the Partnership would couple the City's loan with the Partnership's loan so home buyers do not need to apply twice. Learn more. And learn more about the homes that would qualify for this opportunity [HERE](#).

THE MARYLAND MORTGAGE PROGRAM

Provides a \$5,000 zero interest loan, which is only repaid upon sale or transfer of the property or if the first mortgage is refinanced or paid in full. This loan does not accrue interest over time. Additionally, borrowers can get a Maryland HomeCredit - a tax credit up to \$2,000 - on federal taxes every year for the life of a mortgage. The Maryland Mortgage program applies only to first-time homebuyers or those who have not owned a house in 3 years. This program assists qualified buyers who meet the income limitations - see website for more info. The Partnership has partnered with MMP to provide additional down payment assistance, up to \$2,500, as part of the MMP community partner match.

MCKAY MORTGAGE COMPANY

The McKay Mortgage Company is offering participants in the Homeownership Program a free home appraisal, free pre-approval and free credit analysis. Please contact Brendan McKay at bmckay@mckaymtg.com.

PROSPERITY HOME MORTGAGE LLC

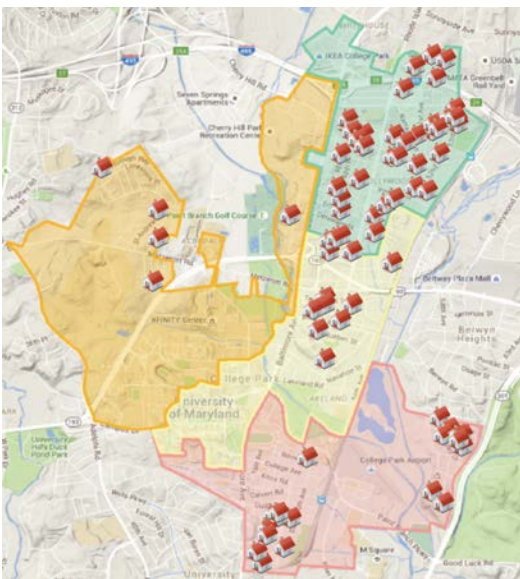
Prosperity Home Mortgage LLC. Prosperity Home Mortgage LLC is offering eligible borrowers a \$1500-\$2500 credit towards down payments and/or closing costs through their BorrowSmart program. [Click here to learn more..](#)

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOME SERVICES PENFED REALTY.

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services PenFed Realty is offering a free one year home warranty to buyers if they purchase with Karyn Keating. For more details on the services provided contact Karyn at karyn.keating@penfedrealty.com or 410-320-7301

PROGRAM DATA

From July 2019 to June 2021, nineteen UMD employees moved into College Park using our program. Five houses were sold in council district three, thirteen were sold in council district one, and one was sold in council district two. There were no homes in FY'20 or FY'21 sold in council district four, but there was one in FY'19. Four former rentals were purchased in conjunction with the City's New Neighbor Grant program in FY'20 and FY'21. In total, the program has added 164 new people to College Park – 128 adults and 36 children.



Each house that has been purchased by a University or City employee represents a home that is **owner-occupied and contributes to neighborhood stability – adding to the City's economy, increasing the local retail market, and improving commuting patterns.** Each university employee living locally has more opportunity to participate more fully in the University and the community and becomes an ambassador to their colleagues to consider living in our community.

There are now eight couples that are dual UMD-career couples, meaning both work at the University. In the first four years, 73 percent of people utilizing our program were first time home buyers and 64 percent were new employees. In the past two years, the Program attracted more new employees and first-time homebuyers than ever before. 79 percent of the employees were new (between 1-4 years), and 84 percent were first time homeowners. Like in FY'19, most of the people who used our program were brand new to the City. While most lived in the DC-Metro area prior to purchasing in College Park, we also saw a few moving from various locations across the country.

In the first four years, there was a pretty equal mix of professors and staff members, with each being about half. These past two years that changed: 63 percent were faculty and 36 percent were staff. Six of the people who used our program graduated from the University.

The salary range for FY'20 and FY'21 homebuyers was \$50,000 to \$126,702, averaging \$79,567. Each home purchased through this program represents neighborhood stability with homeowners invested in the community.

PROGRAM DATA

FACTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

164 NEW RESIDENTS IN COLLEGE PARK

76% EXPRESSED THAT THEY WOULD USUALLY WALK, BIKE OR USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO GET TO WORK.

70% ARE FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS.

63% ARE NEW EMPLOYEES 0-4 YEARS

\$77,188 IS THE AVERAGE EMPLOYEE SALARY

\$26.4M IN HOME SALES

The Program is having a positive impact attracting UMD employees to live in College Park.

The Multiple Listing Services (MLS) as provided to us by the Pirovic Team, recognized 6 years in a row as one of 2021 Washingtonian's Best Realtors, shows there were 293 houses sold in FY'20 and FY'21. Six percent came through this Program.

Of total homes sold in College Park between FY'16 and FY'21 combined, 8% were sold through our program and are likely to be owner-occupied for a term of ten years. 5.9% of all UMD employees live in College Park.

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According to recent data collected for our University Community Vision 2030, 5.3% of all UMD employees live in College Park. This is up from roughly 4% when we started the Program.

We are continuing having an impact on employees who move to College Park, Maryland. The Program, by the end of this Fiscal Year represents roughly 10% of the employees that live in College Park!

Additionally, the effort for more faculty and staff to move to College Park is having a broader effect for local living. 10.3% of all employees live within the "university district" which includes College Park, University Park, Riverdale Park, Berwyn Heights, portions of Hyattsville, Greenbelt, Adelphi and College Heights Estates.

The program has landed new homebuyers in all four council districts and neighborhoods across the City of College Park.

HOMEBUYER PROFILES

KERRY O'BRIEN & ANDRES DIAZ BERWYN



Kerry is a program manager in the University's Office of International Affairs where she works to facilitate study abroad programs. Andres works for Pepperidge Farms.

Kerry is originally from Bowie but she and Andres met in Columbia and moved to College Park once Kerry accepted the position about 2 years ago. "We were living up by Ikea," mentioned Andres, "now I can walk to restaurants!"

Living near Ikea was close enough to bus transit, so Kerry would use buses or carpool to work. "Now, I have the option to walk or bike as well as take a bus or carpool – I'm definitely not driving."

They knew about Berwyn – they like to go to Fishnet and Smile Herb Shop – so when they saw this house, and they learned that the Program was still available, "we scooped it up" explained Andres, "without this Program we would have waited and maybe moved somewhere else."

The house is perfect for them, "we can walk everywhere, to the Lidl, Taqueria Habenero, Vigilante or Pupuseria La Familiar, but we also have massive backyard space. It's like being in a city but it's quiet too, if we want a respite."

PRATYUSH TIWARY & MEGAN NEWCOMBE BERWYN



Pratyush and Megan are both tenure-track assistant professors in the College of Math and Natural Sciences at the University of Maryland. Pratyush works in Chemistry and BioChemistry and Megan is in Geology.

Pratyush had been renting in Takoma Park, but he wanted to live closer. When they were sure Megan would be working at the University of Maryland as well, Pratyush said he knew that they could start looking for a place to live. "In fact, before I started, the Chair of my department had pointed out the [Homeownership] Program, so we knew we could use it if [Megan] was also coming here," explained Pratyush. As they began looking for places in Hyattsville, Berwyn Heights and Takoma Park, "I knew my colleague, Osvaldo Gutierrez, had used this program and, because College Park is rapidly changing, we decided to focus on the neighborhoods here."

As they settle in, they are looking forward to exploring the neighborhood, living in a quiet place within a vibrant area, and biking to work. Said Pratyush with a smile, "We both bike. It's 8 minutes for me and 9 minutes for her." Megan laughed, "It's a great commute for us."

HOMEBUYER PROFILES

DAVID SKLAROFF HOLLYWOOD



David moved to Frederick, Maryland about six and half years ago from Southern California. His daughter was attending school at George Washington University – and he wanted to be closer to her as well as to his mother.

Trained as an electrician, David took a job in the University of Maryland's Facilities Management department – and within six months, he was "done with the drive."

So, he decided to rent a place in College Park. "And, after five years renting and spending \$60,000 in that time, I decided it was time to buy a house here. College Park really is a good vibrant place – it's a mix of the Syracuse rural-like feel and the urban GW feel."

Now, as he is settling in, he's enjoying getting to know the area, "I really like the New York Deli and Eddie's Chinese café. If I need something for the house, there's IKEA and Best Buy – and LIDL is great." One of his hobbies is gourmet cooking, "so MOMs is great to have nearby!"

Even his dog, Huxen, is settling nicely into their new College Park neighborhood. "Huxen loves it here – it's quiet and it's a nice place for a walk."

YIPING QI & HONG CHEN OLD TOWN



Dr. Qi has been working at the University of Maryland in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Plant Sciences Division as an assistant professor for 3 years.

After moving from North Carolina, he and Hong settled in Potomac, Maryland – about a 45-50 minute drive from College Park. "When I started at the university, I learned about the Program, but we weren't ready to move to College Park," explained Yiping, but, after about a year of the commute, "I was tired of the drive."

"I really wanted a place that I could walk to work," said Yiping, "after a couple of years driving, being able to walk to work is very exciting." Hong chimed in, "it's also nice that the home is so close to the Metro – the Green Line is only a couple of blocks away!"

When asked about the Program, Yiping explained that the program was like "icing on the cake, it makes the move that much sweeter."

Yiping's advice to UMD employees, "the University is investing a lot here – and everyone living here is observing the changes. Moving to College Park is a smart investment!"

HOMEBUYER PROFILES

JESSICA JONES HOLLYWOOD



Jessica is the finance coordinator at the University's Center for Advanced Transportation Technology. She landed at the University of Maryland a year and a half ago after working in a research position at Virginia Commonwealth University.

But, when Jessica started at the University, as she looked at places to live, she found that "College Park is a quick-moving market so it was hard to find a place right away." She ended up renting in Silver Spring which was a 25-minute commute by car. But, she said, "I definitely liked the idea of being closer to campus."

After some time, she decided she wanted to purchase a place. But, given the market, she started looking in Beltsville, Hyattsville and even Silver Spring. "And then, knowing the Program was available and seeing this condo in College Park come on the market, I decided this was my chance!"

Jessica doesn't currently have a campus parking pass, so she mentioned she "will be looking into additional ways to get to work once I settle in."

As she and her cat, Ferguson, are getting moved in, she's excited to explore the restaurants here, and the "7-minute commute – Ferguson is going to be happy when there's furniture in the next couple of days!"

CHRISTOPHER SEITZ- BROWN HOLLYWOOD



CJ is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Psychology Department. He lived in DC while he was a graduate student at UMD, but when he returned as a faculty member in Fall 2019, his priority was to be able to bike or walk to campus. Initially, CJ didn't even consider buying a house as a realistic possibility for him.

A close friend from graduate school, Andrew Ninnemann, is a real estate agent who specializes in the College Park area. Andrew told CJ about the benefits of the Homeownership Program, and they decided to focus on homes in the Hollywood neighborhood. "My brother works in Takoma, and he was excited by the option to take the Greenbelt metro to work instead of driving; it would also give both of us the chance to go in to DC to see friends."

ICJ shared that "my loan officer and the title company both raved about how easy it was to work with the program, and with Valerie Woodall specifically." Although it was a unique challenge to move during a stay-at-home order, "one of the neighbors came by as we were moving in and, from a distance, welcomed us to the neighborhood and even offered to mow our lawn as we were unpacking."

HOMEBUYER PROFILES

KYLE HUDSON & TESSA MORK HOLLYWOOD



Kyle started at the University as a Business Manager in the Department of Information Technology about 8 months ago. Tessa is Director of Food and Nutrition Programs at YMCA of Metropolitan Washington.

"While we started looking for a place to live, Kyle learned of the Partnership's Homeownership Program through UMD's Human Resources Additional Benefits page, and that really pushed us to look for homes in the City of College Park," said Tessa.

They settled on the Hollywood neighborhood with their realtor mainly because it has a "strong community feel to it" and "it's close enough to the University while being in a quieter area than downtown, where there's a lot of activity," said Kyle.

"We really look forward to attending local farmers markets, and UMD baseball and football games, as well as enjoying the Trolley Trail, Paint Branch Trail, and Lake Artemesia," Tessa said and Kyle agreed, "exactly – and we are thrilled to have just a 9-minute walk to Metro."

JOANNIE TREMBLAY BOIRE & ANTHONY SANFORD OAK SPRINGS



Joannie and Anthony both work in the University's School of Public Policy – Joannie is an assistant professor and Anthony is working on post-doc research. They began working at the University in 2018, as Joannie explained, "We came to College Park from Georgia State where my husband finished his PhD, and I started my first job after school." They are originally from Montreal, and came to the United States by way of Washington State where Joannie received her Master's degree.

"There were townhomes in Laurel, but then I realized Lennar had townhomes in College Park too! Laurel is really nice, but there's more to do and more restaurants in College Park, [...] College Park also has better access to Washington, D.C.."

When asked what she's been excited for as they transition to living in College Park, Joannie said, "I really love my kitchen, the trails where we walk Minnie our dog, and trying out new restaurants. My favorite recently is Marathon Deli for the gyros!"

"Anthony and I have discussed not using the car all the time and biking to work once bikes become available for purchase, and when the Purple Line comes, we are close enough to the Greenbelt Metro, it will be a very good commute."

HOMEBUYER PROFILES

ANDREA BROWN CALVERT HILLS



Dr. Andrea Brown is Director of Athletic Bands, where she leads the "Mighty Sound of Maryland," and she is Associate Director of Bands in the University of Maryland's School of Music. She also conducts the University of Maryland Wind Ensemble.

When she was renting in College Park, she found she loved the neighborhood, and she loved the house directly across the street. Then, that house went up for sale. As Andrea explains, "when it came up for sale, I started thinking I could purchase it, but I waited a bit. I decided to make the jump and use the Program to purchase this house – and found someone to rent the house I was living in across the street."

When asked about any advice she'd give to UMD employees about using this Program and living in College Park, Andrea said, "The program is great and easy to use. Before moving to College Park, I heard people who didn't have the best things to say about this area. But I love the neighborhood and this Program is really helping – College Park is a great place to live."

Andrea mentioned she likes that she is within walking distance of the Metro and Riverdale Park Station – and her dog Applesauce likes taking walks on the Trolley Trail.

TIMOTHY KIEMEL & WOEI-NAN BAIR CALVERT HILLS



Tim has worked for the University of Maryland as an Associate Research Professor in the School of Public Health's Kinesiology Department for almost 30 years. "At the time, I was working at NIH. When that post-doc research ended, I came over to the University of Maryland and have been here ever since." Woei-Nan splits her time working from home and in Philadelphia in gerontology. She has already become active in the city's Seniors Committee, and is interested in helping College Park seniors age in place.

He has known about the Partnership's Homeownership Program for years. Because he walked from College Park's MARC train stop to the University, he was familiar with the Calvert Hills neighborhood. "So, when my wife and I decided to have one of us be able to walk or bike to work, we decided to look at College Park because of the program." Tim likes the convenience of living close to campus. "Now, instead of walking 25 minutes to my office after a MARC Train ride, I will walk 25 minutes from home to my office."

His advice to UMD employees: "If you're comparing two houses, take this program into account – it's a great opportunity."

HOMEBUYER PROFILES

BRIAN KIM & KATHERINE DELK HOLLYWOOD



DBrian Kim is a Lecturer in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the University of Maryland. Katherine is a data analyst for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

They moved from Los Angeles, California three years ago when Brian started his position at the University of Maryland. When they moved to the area, they first lived in an apartment in Silver Spring. Brian rode a UMD Shuttle bus to and from work, and he notes "it took 45 minutes to an hour each way."

Brian heard about the Homeownership Program via a newsletter. "I thought it would be interesting to explore because we were interested in buying a house, and this would be an added bonus [...] we initially looked in other places, but when we learned about the Homeownership Program, it became a factor for us to look in College Park."

One of the main factors for Brian and Katherine was being near the Metro. "When I work in DC again, I would need to take the Metro. And here, I can walk to the Metro – which is a big deal," said Katherine. Brian added that they "really liked this particular street and house, but if it hadn't been Metro accessible it would have been a dealbreaker."

MARIA SCHANZ & JIMMY ACEVEDO LOCUST SPRINGS



Maria is a research technician in the University of Maryland School of Public Health in the Institute for Applied Environmental Health. Jimmy is Educational Outreach and STEM Engagement Specialist at ASRC Federal / NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

"My mom lived in Riverdale Park, so we were familiar with the Route 1 Corridor," explained Jimmy. When they decided they wanted to purchase instead of rent, they knew they wanted to live close for a short commute, but were uncertain where along Route 1, "the Homeownership Program really made us focus in on College Park."

Maria explained, "I used to bike in North Carolina and missed it when I was at the zoo – and in fact, Proteus Bicycles were extremely helpful with their knowledge of the local trail network."

Jimmy and Maria, and their 2 cats Greita and Piri, are getting settled in to having a yard, space for workshops, and being near metro. "Yes, this is the place for us," explained Jimmy, "one day I'll try a paw paw along the trail in the food forest and learn about edible wild mushrooms." Maria chimed in, "Yep, and we love the communications from the Mayor and County, people are really interconnected here."

HOMEBUYER PROFILES

JACLYN & BRITAIN BRUNER SUNNYSIDE



Jaclyn is a lecturer in the University of Maryland College of Arts and Humanities. Britain is a chemist who manages contracts facilitating USDOT's Safe Transportation of Energy Products initiative.

Jaclyn heard about the Homeownership Program by word of mouth – "Kristi Maddux (UMD professor and College Park resident) told me about it when I was a PhD student but I couldn't access it yet." But, once hired as a full-time employee, they started to look at settling down into a home rather than renting.

"We've been enjoying the City Hall construction. [...] There's also a new playground that we're enjoying. And mostly, we're excited about the local schools (Hollywood Elementary) because we'll be able to walk to school."

Jaclyn used to walk to work on the Trolley Trail, and now she's thinking about how to get to work "when we go back." For Britain, he likes that College Park is Metro accessible, stating that takes the "Green line all the way into work."

LIANA STIEGLER & GRANT ORNDORFF HOLLYWOOD



Liana has worked as a Guest Experience Coordinator at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center for the last two and a half years. Grant is a software engineer and works remotely. "I started at the Clarice in 2015 when I was a student at the University and after graduation started in 2018," explained Liana. They explained that the process was very easy and super helpful in the homebuyer process.

They chose the Hollywood Neighborhood because "it's a nice family neighborhood." "Yes, it's wonderful to be in walking distance to the Hollywood Community Park, and MOM's Organic Market," said Liana. "I like that it's close to the WMATA Greenbelt Metro Station also, that gives us access to Washington D.C. and other places in the metro area," said Grant.

Liana and Grant's family is growing and as they settle into their new home, they are looking forward to being able to bike on the trail system, getting Vigilante Coffee and taking barre classes at OpenBarre Studios.

HOMEBUYER PROFILES

RACHEL & JESS ROMEO CALVERT HILLS



Rachel and Jess moved from Boston to College Park as Rachel started as Assistant Professor in the University College of Education's Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology.

Rachel explained that when she accepted the position, they began looking for homes in College Park, "being close to campus is really important. In Boston, my commute was about 40 minutes. Now, my commute will be 10 minutes by bike!"

They heard about the Homeownership Program from their realtor, "and it was a really big help. We had been looking in Hyattsville and in DC – but knowing there was this Program, we began to really focus on College Park," said Jess, "we were looking in Berwyn when this house popped up – the Program and the house together were a winning combo," said Rachel.

As they move in, Rachel described the Calvert Hills neighborhood, "It feels like home instantly, which is pretty great. We love being part of a real community, and I think we've met every neighbor on the block." "Yes, we also like the proximity to the trail network." Rachel chimed in and said they were looking forward to trying different restaurants, and that on top of frequenting Ikea and Home Depot recently, "we are Bagel Place enthusiasts already!"

ADELINE GICQUEL BRODTKE CALVERT HILLS



Adeline started at the University of Maryland as a Visiting Senior Faculty Specialist in the Department of Astronomy in 2019.

She heard about the Homeownership Program shortly after being hired, "the department gave me a brochure about the Homeownership Program and College Park, and one of my colleagues recommended Real Estate Agent Dixie Meadows," explained Adeline.

She and her husband John were looking for homes for about a year – they looked at a lot of homes. "First, we were looking in Takoma and Silver Spring, and also University Park, but then we remembered this Program. So, we focused on College Park."

Adeline explained "the house was a former rental property meaning it qualified for the City's New Neighbor Grant too. We were able to use both programs together, which was a benefit."

As Adeline gets settled, she notes how walkable College Park is. "I have lived in cities for the majority of my adult life, but I grew up in a small village in France. This house is a mix of both. We've met our neighbors and the house is within walking distance to the grocery, my work,"

HOME BUYER PROFILES

TOM DOBROSIELSKI HOLLYWOOD



Tom is an Information Specialist in the University's Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment (IRPA). He's been with the University for 11 years – and had been renting in College Park.

Tom is a native Prince Georgian who grew up in Bowie. He graduated from Prince George's County's Eleanor Roosevelt High School and earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland in 2009.

Tom is excited about taking buses and public transportation to campus. "The house is close to where I was renting, so I am familiar the neighborhood. I really like it here – the accessibility to public transport like the Greenbelt Metro to go into the City or the shuttle bus to BWI."

Tom explained that other faculty and staff "should become familiar with Programs like the Homeownership Program and see what's available!"

As Tom settles into his new home, he's enjoying the beautiful tree blooming in his front yard. He is looking forward to "the autonomy of being a homeowner" and frequenting MOMs and Lidl.

ELIZABETH MCMAHON HOLLYWOOD



Elizabeth has been working in the Robert H. Smith School of Business' Executive Education department as the Assistant Director for four and a half years. She moved to College Park from Alexandria, Virginia.

"I wanted to be closer to the University," she explained, "to put down roots here." She explained that her position only required her to be in the office a couple of days per week, but on those days she "would only be 15 minutes away rather than one and a half hours!"

When she began house hunting, she prioritized College Park because of the Homeownership Program. "I was looking at two homes when I visited this one. One was further south – but knowing that my closing costs would be taken care of, I knew that I would have some cushion in case this house needed any repairs."

As Elizabeth moves into her house, she is excited about learning more about the trail network, "I'm eager to explore biking to work." She's already met her neighbors. It is her first time owning a home, and "something I've wanted for such a long time. I'm excited to not be renting anymore. "

HOMEBUYER PROFILES

AARON BOBIK & JOANNA DEES HOLLYWOOD



Aaron is a Major Gifts Officer and the Associate Director of Development for the A. James Clark School of Engineering. Joanna worked at nonprofits in DC but is the primary caregiver for their son Jay right now. They moved from Mount Rainier, Maryland.

They heard about the Homeownership Program during the University Human Resources orientation when he started in his position about two years ago. "Even though I had heard about the Program then, when we started looking at purchasing a home and the market is

so crazy ... I'm just glad some colleagues reminded me not to forget the Homeownership Program," explained Aaron.

"We didn't know College Park too well," Aaron said, "but one of my colleagues that I really got to know during the pandemic talked a lot about how nice of a neighborhood the Hollywood area was, so I knew when we were looking that this was a neighborhood to focus on."

Aaron mentioned that this Program makes a huge difference. "We had to use all of our savings to purchase the home. Given the market... UMD employees should really take advantage of the Homeownership Program – it's a seamless process and living close to work is more enjoyable than a long commute."

TESTIMONIALS

"I love that College Park is an **affordable** place to live, but still **safe and conveniently close to downtown DC**. Thanks to the many public transportation options nearby and most essentials (like grocery stores) within walking distance, **I can live an almost-car-free lifestyle.**"

-VALERIE HOY

"We had a 4 month old daughter when we purchased the house, but as she grew up we didn't know how many **public parks and playgrounds** we had at our finger tips. We regularly schedule play dates and **it's always hard picking just one to visit**. We would have to say that Daniels Park is our favorite after work visit. All you need are swings to make a child happy."

-LAURA and AARON HOOD

"I feel safe here and having **nature at my doorstep** is a real comforting feeling. I feel like I am in a 4-6 block bubble."

-MARIA CABNAL HERNANDEZ

THE YEAR AHEAD

College Park enjoys a strong local economy, rooted in university research, start-ups, and creative entrepreneurship. Neighborhoods and commercial areas are safe, healthy and walkable, and well-served by transit. College Park is attractive to both current and new residents for the strength of its abundant housing, employment, and Pre-K - 12 school options. College Park is a destination for its restaurants, shopping, parks and natural areas, and entertainment.

In the next year, the Homeownership Program will continue at a strong pace – with more faculty and staff choosing College Park as their place for living as well as working. As Maria Cabnal Hernandez, Senior Development Coordinator for the Division of University Relations, mentioned in a follow up interview, “I like living close to the lake, parks, campus and trails. I like that LIDL, CVS, Rita's, etc are so close by, within walking distance.” And when asked about what she’s discovered because she lives here, “I have learned that the neighbors who have been here for years have great stories to tell. For example: stories about when people used to own horses back in the 1940s.”

The homes faculty and staff purchase in College Park will be owner-occupied homes for at least ten years, which will help us reach the goal of stabilizing our neighborhoods, reducing traffic, and boosting the local economy.

The priority in the next year for the City-University Partnership’s Homeownership Program is to reach at least 100 homebuyers and at least 200 people living in College Park because of this program. We’d also like to continue increasing the geographic reach of homes across the City. The northern areas of College Park have both the most homes and the most home sales in College Park. We’d like to boost the Program's reach, particularly in Districts 2 and 4. Finally, we’d like to increase the the number of homebuyers who couple both our Homeownership Program with the City of College Park's New Neighbors Program. When a homebuyer qualifies for both programs, they can receive an additional \$5,000 in funding for their home purchase. We will be looking at other ways to increase this partnership.

We know that this Program is working because we’ve increased the percentage of people living in College Park over the course of the Program. But, we have more work to do. We know that a lot of people who work at the University do not know that College Park has 17 neighborhoods to choose from, so in the next year, we will be reaching out to University departments to educate faculty and staff about the City.

The College Park City-University Partnership thanks – very much – the Department of Housing and Community Development, the University of Maryland and City of College Park for supporting this Program. This is an important investment that continues to stabilize the community with new home buyers and their families. This program has been a success thus far and we believe the year ahead will prove to be even more impactful.

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